



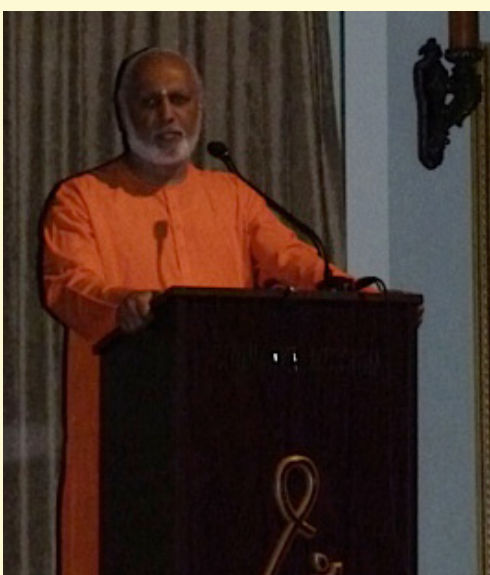
## Chinmaya Mission Launches ‘Kalanjali’ with Dance Event

Chinmaya Mission Los Angeles launched its cultural wing, ‘Kalanjali’ on June 2, at Rameshwaram with a dance recital. The aim of Kalanjali is to bring the greater Chinmaya Mission membership together at events of cultural significance and nurture and present Indian culture to its membership.

As the head acharya of CMLA, Swami Ishwarananda pointed out, in his short talk to about 200 members and friends who had gathered, the arts are all about self expression, and at a more profound level touches the inner self, the divine. Verse, canvas, sculpture and dance, he said, informed progressively from the single to the fourth dimension with an increasing ability to convey and carry along the audience with the expression.

On June 2, the medium was dance. The inaugural show was performed by Odissi dancer Shibani Patnaik. Accompanied by a team of excellent musicians from India, she explored in ‘Samsara’ the journey of the soul through the cycle of birth and death and the final liberation.

Musicians Bijaya Kumar Barik (mardala), Rupak Kumar Parida (vocal), Ramesh Chandra Das (violin) and Jabahar Mishra (flute), who added so much to the quality of the program and who Patnaik referred to as ‘family’ were given a rousing round of applause along with the dancer at the conclusion.



## Riverside Discourse on Chaudah Bhuvan by Swamiji

BY PRIYA RAGHURAM

Swami Ishwarananda gave a discourse at the Shri Laxminarayan Mandir in Riverside on the Chaudah Bhuvan. A beautiful passage from the Tulsi Ramayan, it answers the oft asked questions: what is bhakti and bhakti lakshana? What are the methods of devotion?

Set in Sage Valmiki’s ashrama, the dialog between the Lord and the Sage begins with Sri Rama requesting Valmiki to recommend a place for Him to stay for the remainder of vanvaasa. The sage then goes on to explain all characteristics of an ideal devotee in whose heart the Lord should stay.

Swamiji skillfully drew out the bhakti lakshana in the passage, enumerating all the values that the Lord holds dear. Among these being those who use all their physical, mental and intellectual equipment to serve, glorify and remember the Lord at all times. Swamiji also brought out the fact that the Ramayana being a Dharma Shastra - always enumerates the values that the Lord embodied in human form.

This 3 day talk was well attended and was enjoyed by all.



## Cookout On Mother’s Day a Hit!

Bala Vihar fathers at Chinmaya Rameshwaram were on overdrive on Mother’s day! The first session saw the dads come in at 7am and begin the set up to cook a meal for moms and the kids. Amidst laughter, group support and great camaraderie, they put out a delicious lunch of chole, rice and raita. The second session dads also gathered in the same spirit and cooked from 11am to 1pm. The fathers also pitched in to buy and serve naan and ice cream.

In all, a total of 1,500 boxes of food was served!

The spiritual aspect was not forgotten amidst all the merriment, with all the BV families witnessing a paduka puja for Gurudev. Families also watched a pertinent video clipping of Pujya Gurudev.

Earlier in the week, CEEP kids too enjoyed Mother’s Day with a special pot luck meal which they shared playfully and in good cheer.

In the San Fernando Valley BV’s Mother’s Day was marked with the chanting of the Matra Stavam Stotram while children put kumkum on their mothers’s forehead and feet and offered flowers and arati to mothers. All the families chanted the Guru Stotram and stories on mother were narrated. Children were delighted with the food treats that were brought in by the moms.



## Prayer and Music at Gurudev Jayanti

Gurudev’s Jayanti was marked, as each year with prayer and music. The evening began with bhajans by Swaranjali followed by bhajans by children, all students of local music teacher Padma Kuty. The bhajans by the groups invoked god and guru. The program concluded with arati and prasad.



## Swamiji Speaks at BVM Monthly Meet in Cerritos

The Bharatiya Vichar Manch which hosts speakers of repute each month, invited Swami Ishwarananda in May to speak on ‘Adi Shankara: Life and mission of a great revivalist and pillars of Advaita Vedanta.’ The Cerritos Library hall where the talk was held quickly filled up. Community members participated in a lively q&a session where Swamiji responded with humor, daily examples to simplify the answer for those not yet students of Vedanta and his usual eruditeness.

Patrika readers can hear him here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8aTsVMkMDtE>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yj0njSYTfw>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGwU\\_22uF8M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGwU_22uF8M)



## BV Children Present Learning at Valley Graduation

BY SUNIL AGGARWAL

Chinmaya Mission San Fernando Valley and Conejo Valley Bal Vihar held their graduation on May 20. All graduating kids performed various cultural pieces and were applauded for their scholastic achievements. The occasion was blessed by Swami Ishwarananda.

The ceremony began with the recitation of the Shanti mantra and Hanuman Chalisa followed by a cultural program by the kids. Yashvi Agrawal recited a poem ‘My little inquires’ written by her. Bal Vihar kids then mesmerized the audience with skits ‘Krishna Janam’ and ‘Dhruv’. It was enchanting to see small kids presenting acts from Hindu scriptures. Under the inspiring guidance of Bal Vihar teachers, kids presented these sacred stories beautifully. The kids then gave a glimpse of the Bal vihar teachings by narrating 24 Gurus who inspire them in different ways.

Swamiji addressed the audience by answering the questions raised by one of the kids in her poem – “Who is God, Where does he live and what does he do.” Pundit Vidur of Roscoe temple also spoke on the occasion. All teachers and volunteers were then felicitated by Swamiji.



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